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38. (New) Apparatus for compressing packets being forwarded over a link between base stations, comprising:

a first input interface for receiving packets having a data payload;

a second input interface for receiving information from a signaling line corresponding to the link carrying the data payload;

a processor which determines whether the data payload carries meaningful information, based on information received from the signaling line; and

an output interface which forwards the payload of the packet if the data payload carries meaningful information and does not forward the entire packet if the data payload does not carry meaningful information.

39. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein not forwarding the entire payload of the packet if the data payload will not be decoded comprises forwarding less than the entire payload of the packet.

40. (New) A method according to claim 39, wherein forwarding less than the entire payload of the packet comprises forwarding only a header of the packet.

41. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein forwarding the data payload of the packet if the data payload will be decoded comprises forwarding the entire packet.

42. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein forwarding the data payload of the packet if the data payload will be decoded comprises forwarding the content of the payload of the packet.

REMARKS

The application now includes claims 1-3, 5-21, 23-27, 32 and 38-42. Claims 4, 22, 28-31 and 33-37 were deleted. Claims 1, 5-13, 15-16, 19, 23 and 32 were amended. Claims 38-42 are new.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Holden et al. (U.S. patent 5,020,058), Balachandran et al. (U.S. patent 6,115,394) and possibly one or more references.
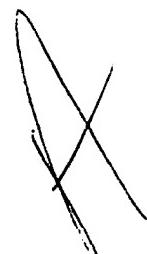
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Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 4 (which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable) into claim 1. Claim 1 now requires determining whether the data payload will be <u>decoded</u> by the second base station. As stated by the Examiner, none of the references teaches or suggests determining whether the data payload will be decoded by the second base station.

Claim 1 was further amended to state that the forwarding is of the payload of the packet. This amendment clarifies that the forwarding of the packet refers to the payload even if the header is not forwarded in its entirety. Different transmission possibilities are described in new dependent claims 41 and 42. Claim 41 requires forwarding the entire packet and claim 42 requires forwarding the content of the payload of the packet. Support for claim 41 can be found, for example, in original claim 1. Support for the term content used in claim 42 may be found, for example, on page 3, line 19. Claims 6 and 9, which were amended into independent form, were amended in a similar manner. In addition, claims 5, 7, 8, 10-13 and 15-16 were amended to conform to this amendment.

Claims 6 and 9 which were indicated by the Examiner as being allowable, were amended into independent form. New claim 38 is an apparatus claim corresponding to method claim 6. Claims 10 and 11 which now depend on independent claim 9 were replicated as claims 39 and 40, which depend on claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason that they depend on allowable claims.

Claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Holden et al. (U.S. patent 5,020,058), Balachandran et al. (U.S. patent 6,115,394) and for claim 20 also Sharma et al. (US patent 5,546,395).

Claim 19 was amended to include the subject matter of claim 7, namely that the determination for each packet is based on information from a header of the packet. Although applicants believe the subject matter of claim 7 to be patentable, applicants further amended claim 19 to state that the determination is based on control bits of the header, in order to expedite the allowance of the application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 19, in view of the amendment of the claim. The Examiner stated, regarding claim 7, that Holden states on column 3, lines 38-42, that the determination is based on information retrieved from a header of the packet. Applicants note, however, that Holden does not refer to a header at all. Holden mentions searching throughout the packet (column 3, lines 41-42), i.e., based on the data itself, and not

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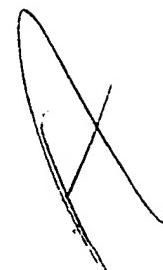
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based on the header, which as is known in the art is separate from the data of the packet. Furthermore, to the best of applicants' knowledge, the headers in Holden do not include control bits at all.

Claims 20 and 21 are allowable at least because they depend on allowable claims.

Claims 23-25, 27 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Holden et al. (U.S. patent 5,020,058) and Balachandran et al. (U.S. patent 6,115,394).

Claims 23 and 32 were amended, similarly to claim 1 above, to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 which was indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 23 now requires a processor which determines whether the data payload carries meaningful information and will be decoded by a remote base station. Claim 23 and its dependents are allowable for the same reason as claim 1 and its dependents are allowable. Claim 32 now requires a compression unit which determines whether the encoded data payload carries meaningful information. Claim 32 is therefore allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

A marked-up version of the amendments is attached hereto.

In view of the above amendment remarks, applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the prior art. Allowance of the application is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,
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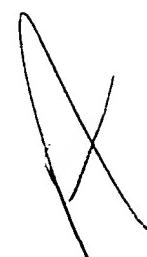
Marked up version of amended claims

1. (Amended) A method of forwarding signals over a cellular link, comprising:

receiving, at a first base station of a cellular fixed network, a packet of signals having a data payload directed to a second base station;

determining whether the data payload will be ~~us~~decoded by the second base station; and

forwarding the ~~entire~~ data payload of the packet if the data payload will be ~~us~~decoded and not forwarding the entire data payload of the packet if the data payload will not be ~~us~~decoded.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the data payload will be ~~us~~decoded by the second base station comprises determining whether the second base station will forward or discard the contents of the payload.

6. (Amended) A method ~~according to claim 1, wherein~~ of forwarding signals over a cellular link, comprising:

receiving, at a first base station of a cellular fixed network, a packet of signals having a data payload directed to a second base station:

determining whether the data payload will be used ~~comprises determining~~ based on information retrieved from a signaling line corresponding to the link; and

forwarding the data payload of the packet if the data payload will be used and not forwarding the entire data payload of the packet if the data payload will not be used.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the data payload will be ~~us~~decoded comprises determining based on information retrieved from a header of the packet.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining whether the data payload will be ~~us~~decoded is performed before forwarding any part of the packet.

9. A method of forwarding signals over a cellular link, comprising:~~according to claim 1, wherein~~

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_____ receiving, at a first base station of a cellular fixed network, a packet of signals having a data payload directed to a second base station;

_____ determining whether the data payload will be used ~~by the second based station,is performed~~ after forwarding at least part of the packet; and

_____ forwarding the data payload of the packet if the data payload will be used and not forwarding the entire data payload of the packet if the data payload will not be used.

10.   (Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein not forwarding the entire payload of the packet if the data payload will not be used comprises forwarding less than the entire payload of the packet.

11.   (Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein forwarding less than the entire payload of the packet comprises forwarding only a header of the packet.

12.   (Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein forwarding the ~~entire~~ payload of the packet comprises forwarding through a tunnel used by a plurality of connections.

13.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein not forwarding the entire payload of the packet if the data payload will not be used comprises not forwarding any of the packet.

15.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein forwarding the ~~entire~~ payload of the packet comprises forwarding the packet along with a connection indication field.

16.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein forwarding the ~~entire~~ payload of the packet comprises forwarding through a tunnel used by a number of connections greater than the number of channels in the tunnel.

19.   (Amended) A method of forwarding signals over a link between base stations, comprising:

receiving, at a first base station of a cellular fixed network, a plurality of packets;

determining for each packet whether the data payload of the packet will be used based on information retrieved from control bits of a header of the packet; and

forwarding the ~~entire~~ payload~~cket~~ of at least one of the packets and not forwarding the entire payload~~cket~~ of at least one of the packets, according to the determination.

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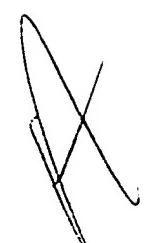
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23.   (Amended) Apparatus for compressing packets being forwarded over a link between base stations, comprising:

an input interface which receives packets having a data payload;

a processor which determines whether the data payload carries meaningful information and will be decoded by a remote base station; and

an output interface which forwards the ~~entire~~ payload of the packet if the data payload carries meaningful information and will be decoded by the remote station and does not forward the entire packet if the data payload does not carry meaningful information.

32.   (Amended) A system for forwarding packets from and to mobile units, comprising:

a base transmission station which generates a stream of packets each having an encoded data payload;

a compression unit which determines whether the encoded data payload carries meaningful information, forwards the ~~entire~~ payload~~ket~~ of packets which carry meaningful information and does not forward the entire payload~~ket~~ of packets which do not carry meaningful information; and

a base station controller which receives the forwarded packets and generates replacement packets for packets whose payload was not forwarded in their entirety.